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REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 28. Claims 35-41 have been added. Support for the amendment to claim 28 can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 5, line 27, to page 6, line 2. Claim 35 is directed to certain specific embodiments of claim 28. Support for new claims 36 and 40 can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 13, lines 22-23. Support for new claims 37 and 41 can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 13, lines 23-24. Support for new claim 38 can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 22, lines 9 to 16. Claim 39 is directed to certain specific embodiments of claim 36. Following entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 28, 29, 31, and 35-41 are pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims 28, 29, 31, and 35-39 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for these claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 13, 2001

By: 

M. Paul Barker
Reg. No. 32,013

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000

APPENDIX

Please amend claim 28 to read:

28. An antibody or fragment thereof [specifically binding] that specifically binds a polypeptide [of Claim 18] comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, or SEQ ID NO: 17.